

BEACH ALCOHOL TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes for 2/26/07

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Members Present:

Todd Brown, Scott Chipman, Jean Froning, Clyde Fuller, Nancie Geller, Carol Janks, Katie Keach, Julie Klein, Jeremy Malecha, Dave Martin, Bill Bradshaw, Mike Meyers.

Chair:

Councilmember Kevin Faulconer—not present at the meeting

Meeting Chaired by Clyde Fuller

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Introductory comments by Clyde Fuller:

- C-M is running late due to a City Council meeting that is running late
- The issues posed by neighborhood house parties have been noted as a significant issue for beach area residents.
- I heard from many of you at the first meeting that you were sick and tired of noisy neighborhood house parties, and that is why we have put this item on the agenda.
- The PB Town Council and SavePB have discussed this issue at recent meetings and I felt it was important to have this discussion at our beach alcohol task force as well.
- The police department has some great tools to address neighborhood house parties, and I have asked Lt. Ahearn to share those facts with us, as well as some of the requested crime statistics.
- We invited representatives from the SD apartment association and other large rental agencies in the beach areas to inform them of efforts to address noisy house parties b/c of the effect it might have on their rental properties.
- We have also invited representatives from the various local universities, whose students reside in the beach areas, to join us tonight and listen to the efforts that the police department is taking to address this issue.
- I look forward to the input from the task force members on ideas they might have on other ways to address this issue.

Public Comment:

- Eric Lingenfelder: discussed the recent in-house security training he conducted, and that Bill Bradshaw and Jeremy Malecha of the task force attended the training. The task force is there to listen to solutions, and there are many aspects that contribute to issues
- Rick Oldam: said that one can go to the City's web page to get additional crime statistic information. In 2006, there were 2000 property crimes in PB, and believes that a multitude of those crimes are contributed to alcohol issues
- Al Strohlein: for the past three years, the SDPD July 4th plan was to spend \$1 million per year to control the crowds. They still have not seen a report on this effort. Wants BATF to ask City to do a 3-year plan to ban alcohol on July 4th.
- Marcie Beckett: read in the paper last week that SDSU and UCSD are expanding in the next twenty years and increasing on-campus housing by only a few spots. Also mentioned that part of prevention is educating students. Recommends that universities enforce and provide repercussions for student's actions.
- Nicole Larson: believes that the late night house parties are a problem as well as the crowds that gather after the bar's close.

San Diego Police Department Presentation on College Area Party Plan (CAPP) and Beach Area Crime Statistics:

- Capt. Long: Police Chief Lansdowne directed Capt. Long to provide unfiltered content to the committee, and that is the presentation that Lt. Ahern has prepared and will be delivering
- Lt. Ahearn: went through the powerpoint presentation in great detail

- Discussion of CAPP program—implementation and how it is used
- SDPD Crime statistics follow the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system.
- There is no definition for alcohol-related crimes, and it will only be noted if an Officer indicates in his report that an offense appears to be alcohol-related, or that alcohol was involved.
- The only alcohol-related crimes per se are DUI's, liquor law violations, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct.
- Lt. Ahearn said that robberies have increased, and there is a need to educate students, especially at the universities, to be careful in the beach areas. Mission beach and Mission bay area car prowls are high in isolated lots, and the new increased lighting by Councilmember Faulconer and the community will help with that.
- Questions/Comments from the Task Force members:
 - Carol: Where does the citation fall if an issue is a lifeguard issue first, and then becomes a police issue?
 - Brian Ahearn (BA): lifeguard data is included. Also noted that DUI's include operating a vessel and the harbor unit enforces that.
 - Jeremy: Why have MB and PB had increased robberies and OB has remained the same?
 - BA: beach area is a target rich environment because it has twenty million visitors a year in the Northern Div. beach area. Most of the visitors are easier victims because they are less aware of their surroundings than those that live at the beach. Most are not armed robberies, just those taking advantage of beachgoers.
 - Julie: OBMA holds monthly crime prevention meetings, between the surf club, town council, main street association and the residents; they are a proactive group able to form an effective preventative neighborhood watch.
 - Jeremy: What does the PD use to determine success and failure for what works?
 - Boyd Long (BL): they use community input and mostly rely on statistical data to determine if the crime rate is going down. They use multiple year data to look at trends and not just single year data. Single year data is used to determine more proactive responses.
 - Carol: do we know the percentage of robberies that are alcohol related?
 - BA: it is all speculation because robberies are not an alcohol related crime
 - Todd: he thinks that we are creating a baseline for the statistics. The most alarming statistics are the DUI's coming out of PB. It is hard to define the relationship between alcohol and violent crimes or property crimes, because people robbing people are not drunk but are preying on the drunks. So how does alcohol play a part?
 - BL: working on greater DUI enforcement because of the high number of house parties, and bars. They are always looking for grants to do saturation patrols in the area, and they see the number of arrests increase because they are doing so many saturation patrols—more so than they do in the Gaslamp, so that affects the number of DUIs. It is difficult to speculate with the other crimes because the number of visitors that stay at the beach hotels and rentals increase the amount of crime.
 - Todd: asked about the recent DUI checkpoint and the numbers that resulted from that.
 - BA: community wanted to put a message out there about no tolerance for DUI's and that is why they used a checkpoint
 - BL: said that saturation patrols, as opposed to checkpoints, are the most successful because of the element of surprise.
 - Jean: After a residence is CAPP's, does the cost recovery for the second response continue throughout the entire year?
 - BA: cost recovery is only for the second response within twenty-four hour period
 - Jean: MB is 3400% over the tract average for crimes, and question is whether most of those occur on the sand?
 - BA/BL: said that they are all combined

- Chris from SDPD (computes statistics): said that population does not factor into the statistics and that is why MB is so much higher than the tract average, because of the number of visitors v. the number of actual residents
- Nancie: Did the old CAPP program have constitutional challenges to it?
 - Teresa Martin from City Atty.'s Office responded that they did not foresee any issues
- BA: if police arrest someone for disturbing the peace at a house party, then they typically needed a citizen to sign something stating that, but now, if an officer can hear the noise w/in 50 ft., then the officer can make the arrest on their own without needing a citizen to sign anything.

More public comment

- Rick Oldham: will try to find money to increase DUI enforcement. There have been 533 DUI's, and those are only the ones where people were caught.
- Nicole Larson: are there any tools to address those over-selling at off-licenses establishments?
- Mike Stevens: the two top census tracts have 110 licenses within an area that should only have twenty-one
- Todd Brown: Beach is in that area as well and need to consider all of the factors that contribute to DUI's and alcohol issues.
- Eve Anderson: need officers on foot and bike patrol on Garnet to act as a buffer to the neighborhoods. Thinks that the police should have a box to check that would state whether something is an alcohol related offense.
- Tom Cleary with USD, and Julie Barnett with USD's prevention program: they are trying to get through to the students and educate them during orientation and if there are problems, they are working as a university to address them